

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/018,026 Confirmation No. 4684
Applicant: : Atle Bjornerud
Filed : June 11, 2002
TC/A.U. : 3737
Examiner: : Ruth S. Smith

Docket No. : NIDN-10403
Customer No. : 36335

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT/RESPONSE

Madam:

In response to the Office Action dated September 26, 2007, a response to which is due October 26, 2007, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 23. (Canceled)
24. (Currently Amended) A method of magnetic resonance imaging of a kidney in vascularized human or non human body comprising the steps of:
 - administering into the vasculature of said body a bolus of a blood pool MR contrast agent;
 - generating a contrast enhanced MR image of said kidney during the first pass of said contrast agent;
 - generating at least one further MR image of said kidney after the concentration of said contrast agent throughout the blood of said body has become substantially uniform and, deriving from said MR images values indicative ~~of one~~ of renal perfusion ~~and renal artery stenosis grade.~~
25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said blood pool MR contrast agent is a superparamagnetic contrast agent.
26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said blood pool MR contrast agent comprises magnetic iron oxide particles having on their surfaces an optionally modified polysaccharide and optionally a material which inhibits opsonization.
27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said blood pool MR contrast agent comprises superparamagnetic iron oxide particles having on their surfaces degraded starch.

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28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said contrast enhanced MR image of said kidney generated during the first pass of said contrast agent is a T_2^* -weighted image.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said at least one further MR image of said kidney generated after the concentration of said contrast agent throughout the blood of said body has become substantially uniform is a T_1 -weighted image.

30- 31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein said contrast enhanced MR image of said kidney generated during the first pass of said contrast agent is used to quantify intra-parenchymal blood volume.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 32, wherein said method is used to assess parenchymal damage.

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 24 has been rewritten to incorporate dependent claim 30. Claim 30 has been canceled. These changes have been made in accordance with the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences decision dated May 22, 2007.

In view of the time delay for responding to both the Board's decision and Applicants earlier amendments set forth on June 21, 2007, Applicants respectfully request the following:

an expedited allowance for the claims; and
a patent term adjustment of 108 days (from June 21st to October 9th) or when the claims are entered in to allowance, which ever date is the earlier date to be applied accordingly.

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It is believed that there are no fees associated with this Amendment/Response, however, the Office is authorized to charge any fees incurred by the entry of this paper to the instant assignee's Deposit Account No. 502-665.

Any questions with respect to the foregoing may be directed to the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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